

Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

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Breakthrough!

There's a new breast cancer tumor removal technology patented by the biomedical IceCure company of ISRAEL. Guided by ultra-sound, the procedure penetrates and destroys breast cancer tumors by engulfing them in ice. *Freezing small cancerous tumors takes about ten minutes and does not require surgery or recovery time.*

(Source: Volume 8 Issue 1, High Holidays 5774, ISRAEL CONNECTION, An AIPAC Holiday Publication for Synagogues, "Chilling Effect")

Eyes on the FDA

New York City has had a local ban on Trans Fats since 2007. Now, after a century of its use, the FDA has finally ruled that *Trans Fat* is NOT generally considered safe. For many years it was thought to be more healthful. Then several decades ago health concerns began building when a few studies linked Trans Fat to heart attacks and strokes. Consumers are becoming educated and vote with their wallets by electing to buy healthier foods, rather than artificially modified substances.

With *Trans Fats* the turning point came in the middle of the last decade WHEN THE FDA PUT IN PLACE A REQUIREMENT THAT PROCESSED FOOD MAKERS MUST DISCLOSE THE PRESENCE OF TRANS FAT ON THEIR PACKAGING LABELS. That was the catalyst for food makers to switch oils, rather than have the Trans Fat ingredient show up on the "NUTRITION FACTS" LABEL. Once it got labeled, many fast food chains and restaurants then also started barring Trans Fats and changing over to oil without Trans Fats.

The primary dietary source of Trans Fats is from partially hydrogenated oils. The ban would focus on the artificially hydrogenated oils, without affecting *naturally occurring* Trans Fat in dairy and meat products. An estimated 20,000 heart attacks and 7,000 deaths a year will be spared with the ban. It is a life-saving measure.

According to the FDA Commissioner, Margaret Hamburg, there is still a significant public health concern over Trans Fats. For example, CON AGRA FOODS INC. that fights GMO labeling initiatives, still uses Trans Fat in their *Marie Calendar pastries and flaky pie crust*. CARGILL INC still sells Trans Fats to commercial customers, as does ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND COMPANY, and J.M. SMUCKER COMPANY owns *Pillsbury Baking Mixes*. Pillsbury puts Trans Fats into their cake mixes and frostings.

According to the watchdog group called the *Center for Science in the Public Interest*, some of the chains that still have menu items containing Trans Fats are CARL'S JR., HARDEES, and POPEYES.

There are still a lot of *biscuits, dessert mixes, industrial packaged cakes, and popcorn* that need product reformation. So even though consumption lowered over the last 20-years, Trans Fats are still found in a number of products from *coffee creamer or margarine to frozen pizza*.

Some brands of peanut butter add Trans Fats. According to the AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION and the U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, the worst foods are battered and fried, baking mixes, cookies, frozen desserts, ready-to-use frosting, pie crusts, frozen pizza, and microwave popcorn. The ill effect of processed foods with artificial Trans Fat is an increased risk for heart disease.

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According to *Michael Taylor* the FDA's intention is to ban Trans Fats, but the final ruling is still forthcoming as there is a 60-day period for input by nutrition advocates and others who have been urging a ban for years. The FDA claims it needed to build a business consensus that Trans Fats are generally considered unsafe, before banning it, since 30-years ago the FDA never challenged the safety assertion by food companies.

Actually there is a similarity between how the FDA just *assumed* Trans Fat was safe because the food companies said so, and how the FDA *assumes* GMO's are safe. Please keep the parallel in mind as it is the same in regards to how the food companies distorted that Trans Fats were safe, and it is also market distortion that is unsubstantiated fallacy in regards to the so-called safety claims about GMO ingredients.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FDA FOR TAKING STEPS TO ELIMINATE TRANS FATS IN AMERICAN DIETS.

(Sources: November 8, 2013, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "FDA Moves toward Banning Trans Fat in Foods" by Thomas M. Burton and Julie Jargon, Annie Gasparro contributed; November 8, THE DAILY TIDINGS, "FDA moving to ban trans fat from processed foods" by Samantha Bomkamp, CHICAGO TRIBUNE)

Eyes on Product Reformation

U.S. corn prices tumbled 37% this year, making GMO corn one of the worst-performing U.S. commodities. Prices may fall even further. The U.S. farm belt this year experienced the worst drought in decades. The biotechnology industry organization lobby has been using marketing DISTORTION, touting GMO corn as drought resistant. *Actually, some farmers may switch to planting other crops next year.*

There is sluggish demand for *America's Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)* corn from foreign buyers who don't want it as animal or human food. U.S. consumers are currently denied their human right for food justice in having GMO ingredients listed on package labels. **Food companies sneak GMO ingredients into much of the packaged foods in U.S. grocery aisles. GMO's are also snuck into pet food.**

There is clearly enormous pressure on the U.S. federal government to create a national labeling standard because America clearly lags behind the rest of the world in product reformation. It is NOT rocket science to look at the following list and see that GMO's are a public safety issue of global prime concern, *since 64 countries have already passed laws requiring that GMO ingredients be identified and labeled for consumers and many on the list also have passed safeguard bans against allowing GMO crops to be planted in their soil or imported into their countries.*

Australia	Estonia	Lithuania	Slovenia
Austria	Ethiopia	Luxembourg	South Africa
Belarus	Finland	Malaysia	South Korea
Belgium	France	Mali	Spain
Bolivia	Germany	Malta	Sri Lanka
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Mauritius	Sweden
Brazil	Hungary	Netherlands	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Iceland	New Zealand	Taiwan
Cameroon	India	Norway	Thailand
China	Indonesia	Peru	Tunisia
Croatia	Ireland	Poland	Turkey
Cyprus	Italy	Portugal	Ukraine
Czech Republic	Japan	Romania	United Kingdom
Denmark	Jordan	Russia	Vietnam
Ecuador	Kazakhstan	Saudi Arabia	
El Salvador	Kenya	Senegal	
	Latvia	Slovakia	

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In America, the legislatures of CONNECTICUT and MAINE passed labeling bills that will be enacted once a few other states pass similar laws. WASHINGTON state's labeling initiative was a close vote this week. The problem is marketing distortion by BAYER CROP SCIENCE, DOW AGROSCIENCES, DUPONT PIONEER, MONSANTO, and THE GROCERY MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION who spent a combined \$21.4 million to finance a barrage of TV spots and other ads during the 30-days leading up to the vote, and another \$7.9 million in marketing distortion the final week before Election Day on November 5.

These are the food makers who incited voters against passage of I-522 in Washington: COCA COLA, CON AGRA FOODS, PEPSI COMPANY, GENERAL MILLS, and NESTLE USA. They are the same food companies that funded influence and persuasion against Proposition 37 in CALIFORNIA. *It's a losing game for those companies because the American people have other ideas, progressive ideas, and can find food partners with "Non-GMO Verified" seals. All "USDA Certified Organic" foods are non-GMO. This holiday season, more than ever, you'll find gluten-free, Kosher, vegetarian and vegan options of many holiday foods that contain NO Genetically Modified Organisms. To learn more about GMO's in food, visit www.nongmoproject.org/learn-more.*

GMO's are plants that can't occur in nature or by traditional cross-breeding, but have been genetically engineered with DNA from bacteria, viruses, or other species. Organic farming in contrast is always an environment-friendly choice.

Two dozen U.S. states have introduced GMO labeling bills this year and many are expected to take up such bills this session. And there are 30 states in America with a history of GMO-labeling initiatives because GMO ingredients are generally considered unsafe by a growing number of the American people: AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, HI, ID, IA, IL, MA, ME, MI, MN, MO, NJ, NH, NM, NY, NC, OR, OH, PA, RI, TN, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV. Some efforts are still pending. See <http://righttoknow-gmo.org/states> and <http://justlabelit.org>.

(Source: October 1, 2013, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Bumper Crop Stalks Corn" by Tony Dreibus; Vol. 19, EXTRAORDINARY HEALTH, "Battling the World of GMO's", and "Hot Books and Apps—What We're Reading and Downloading", www.gardenoflife.com)

Eyes on Marc Van Montague's FALLACIOUS DISTORTIONS

In 1981, MONSANTO helped finance the work of Marc Van Montagu at GHENT UNIVERSITY, in regards to a soil microbe called AGROBACTERIUM TUMEFACIENS that could inject its own DNA into plants, causing "GALL DISEASE", a TUMOROUS GROWTH. The "GALL DISEASE" was supposedly disabled, but the TUMOR-CAUSING AGROBACTERIUM TUMEFACIENS began to be used as a carrier to insert a foreign gene into plant DNA. The result is "Genetically Modified Organism" (GMO) crops that would NEVER have existed in Nature from evolution or cross-breeding. Independent scientific research into the safety of GMO foods have found that GMO consumption in animals CAUSES TUMORS and other disease. **All "safety claims" are unsubstantiated.**

Marc Van Montagu is founder and chairman of the Institute of Plant Biotechnology Outreach at Ghent University in Belgium. He went on to found two biotech companies, PLANT GENETIC SYSTEMS and CROP DESIGN. MONSANTO funded the notorious "World Food Prize" to the tune of \$5 million. Kenneth Quinn the President of the biased "World Food Prize" foundation is obsessed with awarding \$250,000 cash to the founders of the agrochemical cartel in 1981: MONSANTO's Robert Fraley, SYNGENTA BIOTECHNOLOGY AG's Mary-Dell Chilton, and PLANT GENETIC SYSTEMS and CROP DESIGN's, Van Montagu.

No wonder Eric Holt-Gimenez, Executive Director of FOOD FIRST, a food policy research organization in Oakland, CALIFORNIA scoffs at the biased favoritism of the prize promotion. The WORLD FOOD PRIZE foundation ignores the documented successes of other more sustainable farming methods. In response to the marketing DISTORTION letter from Marc Van Montagu that was published on October 23, 2013, in THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, the Executive Director of the **CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY**, Andrew Kimbrell, wrote a letter of rebuttal. THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL published his reproof on November 9, 2013.

Actually Van Montagu's claims are DISTORTION. Mr. Kimbrell reproved Van Montagu's marketing DISTORTIONS, as FLAWED fallacious reasoning by emphasizing that the GMO crops HAVE FAILED TO DELIVER THE PROMISES. GMO crops are FAR from environmentally sustainable because the GMO crops are causative of increased amounts of pesticides used in agriculture. The overall increase in crop yields over the last half century is attributed to conventional, NOT GMO, agricultural practices. Van Montagu's marketing claims were fallacious according to the CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY. **THREE STRIKES YOU ARE OUT, Van Montague.** Marc Van Montagu may as well be benched because he DISTORTS about GMO's lowering cost for farmers. That claim is also a FALLACY. Since 1995 when GMO seeds won patents, there has been a 325% spike in soybean prices and a 516% jump in cotton. GMO soy and GMO cotton contracts force farmers to pay for more pesticides, NOT less.

Mr. Kimbrell counters Van Montagu by presenting actual data, not theory, proving GMO crops are commodity monocrops crops grown solely for animal feed, processed foods and biofuel that do NOT solve world hunger. GMO monoculture crops result in loss of biodiversity, climate change, deforestation, and increased use of toxic pesticides, NONE of which is essential to feeding a growing population. THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY's Mr. Kimbrell correctly points out the facts override Van Montagu's theories. GMO crops are drawbacks in a time of increasing climate chaos.

The frosting on the cake of rebuttal is that Mr. Kimbrell exposes Van Montagu's worst bias for the marketing DISTORTION that it is. It is UTTER FALLACY for Mr. Montagu to deceive by claiming the United Nations stands behind GMO crops for alleviating poverty and hunger. The EXACT OPPOSITE IS TRUE. Mr. Kimbrell exposes the lie by pointing out **a most excellent UNITED NATIONS AND WORLD BANK ASSESSMENT CONCLUDED THAT GMO CROPS HAVE VERY LITTLE POTENTIAL TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY AND WORLD HUNGER.** The United Nations and the World Bank organized **a study that concluded GMO crops would play an insignificant role in fighting world hunger.** The word "insignificant" means not worth mentioning, irrelevant, trivial, and unimportant! If you give a person enough rope, they will hang themselves is an old adage. Mr. Montagu's published letter in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL is a prime example of hanging himself. Industrial agrochemical agriculture is something entirely other than an ecological agricultural approach. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY IN WASHINGTON FOR EXPOSING MR. MARC VAN MONTAGU'S OUTRAGEOUS FALSEHOODS PUBLISHED BY THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

(Sources: October 23, 2013, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "The Irrational Fear of GM Food" by marc Van Montagu; November 9, 2013, THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, "Our GMO Food Fears Aren't Irrational" by Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director of the Center for Food Safety in Washington; June 20, NEW YORK TIMES, "Monsanto Crop Genetics Team Wins Prize", by Andrew Pollack)

Eyes on Governor Kitzhaber and Senator Ron Wyden

In OREGON, **Governor Kitzhaber** has called on a **Special Task force** to provide expert recommendations on **OREGON STATE POLICY**, because he DISTASTEFULLY signed into law a state version of the notorious *Monsanto Protection Act* that the Senate had just removed from the *Federal Budget Bill*, DESPITE THE FACT THAT OREGON IS ONE OF THE KEY STATES PRODUCING ORGANIC SEED COMPANIES THAT SUPPLY THE WORLD. BECAUSE OF GMO CROPS' GENE DRIFT ORGANIC SEED CROPS IN OREGON HAD TO BE PLOWED UNDER BY ORGANIC GROWERS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR USDA ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AND MARKET REPUTATION.

GMO crops are NOT harmed by organic pollen, it's the reverse. The governor chose to side with the unpopular agrochemical cartel perpetrators rather than the eco-sustainable organic growers being victimized in Kitzhaber's state. **Let us hope Governor Kitzhaber consults with Dr. Ramon Seidler regarding the biosafety concerns of GMO crops.** Dr. Seidler's contact number is 541.601.9955 or rayseidler@msn.com. He is one of the world's top 2000 scientists according to CAMBRIDGE and he has spent his entire life researching the GMO drawback issues as a microbiology professor, and he wrote the EPA biosafety plan. If anyone on earth should know what the GMO hazards for America are, it is he. **Dr. Seidler is giving another GMO public safety concerns address at the Medford Library on November 20 at 7 p.m.** Dr. Seidler's actual factual data concurs with that of Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director of the CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY.

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It would behoove Governor Kitzhaber and the **Farm Bill** to pay attention to FACTUAL STATISTICAL DATA, rather than marketing DISTORTIONS. **The U.S. Agricultural Department and the Oregon Agricultural Department should be investigated by the U.S. Attorney General and the OREGON Department of Justice for promoting the marketing DISTORTIONS of the biotechnology industry organization lobbyists.** *Enough is enough. Let's get real about marketing DISTORTION.*

It is illegal in their own country for SYNGENTA AG to plant GMO crops in soil, so they are invading OREGON TERRITORY. It's nuts to protect SYNGENTA AG and other out-of-state multinational GMO perpetrators and their invasion of the American people's U.S. soil. **It takes years to rebuild the top soil that the industrial monocrop farming practices ruin.** Ask the European countries that are still suffering from the GMO crop experiments perpetrated upon them, by U.S. chemical giant MONSANTO, from which they are still smarting. *Ouch, what goes around come around. Is it Karma you may ask.*

Legislation may be introduced in 2015 to address compensation and liability issues and to address the American people's right to LABELLING GMO's in our food. Meanwhile, how can the American people overcome the 600 corporate lobbyists negotiating with 12 governments using deepening secrecy about the **Trans Pacific Partnership** trade agreement.

Former U. S. Trade Representative *Ron Kirk* asserts that the American people would raise such opposition that the deal would be impossible to sign if the trade agreement text were made public. Apparently the text is rigged so that the trade tribunal court system protects the 600 corporate lobbyists' corporate clientele, not the American people.

CARGILL and others want the trade provisions to supersede any and all national laws that conflict with corporate greed for profitability, such as exempting tobacco products from being required to warn about the significant adverse health consequences or dangers of tobacco products and the reversal of decisions that found the tobacco companies liable for damages to the health of the American people.

With the TPP, labeling GMO's or banning GMO crops could also be outlawed. These are human rights violations of disclosure. All signatory nations might have to remove such labels, even if there is scientific research coming shedding light on what is hazardous to human health. Nations would NOT be permitted to discriminate against hazardous products in the marketplace.

The good news is that senior **Senator, Ron Wyden** chairs the committee through which the trade agreement must first pass. You can urge him to vigorously oppose the TPP. Einstein would have said our task must be to free ourselves from this TPP prison. The elimination of consumer *redress of grievances* is tantamount to mutiny. *Period.*

(Source: THE ROGUE VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESS, "*Oregon Legislature passes Oregon's Monsanto Protection Act*", by Jason Houk, and "*The threat of Trans-Pacific partnership to public health*" by Ivend Holen)

Unsafe Food for Sale in America

Unsanitary conditions at three FOSTER FARMS in CALIFORNIA recently poisoned at least 278 of the American people with salmonella. The health alert was associated with Heidelberg Salmonella strains that were distributed to retail outlets over six-months and it spread to 18 states reporting illnesses, with 77 percent of the illnesses were reported in CALIFORNIA. Of those sickened, 42 percent were hospitalized. This was an unusually high rate of hospitalization related to this outbreak. *Caroline DeWaal, Food Safety Director for the Center for Science in the Public Interest*, concurs with the *Center for Disease Control and Prevention*.

FOOD SAFETY ATTORNEY, *Bill Marler*, asserts that the *USDA* needs to position itself to recall poultry poisoned with Salmonella, because agricultural antibiotic use has been creating more dangerous forms of drug resistant Salmonella. *Attorney Marler* warns that the food landscape is a different ballgame from a decade ago, with the current poultry industry overusing antibiotics to promote fast growth, leading to poultry consumers having human resistance to drugs.

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The USDA issued a public health alert when the agency's Food Safety and Inspection Service found the Heidelberg strains. So why did the U.S.D.A just threaten to close the three California poultry plants operated by Foster Farms, without closing them. Why isn't there teeth in standing for what's right, instead of winking at what's wrong. The reality on the ground is not keeping up with science because food is more problematic than it was 10-years ago according to Attorney Marler.

Ready -to-eat salad containing E. coli bacteria was distributed across the U.S. Symptoms of E. coli are abdominal cramps and bloody diarrhea and these can cause dehydration. Most people recover within a week, but can cause kidney failure. Twenty-six cases traced back to 15 victims reporting they had consumed pre-packaged salads prior to the symptom onset. The U.S.D.A. Food Safety and Inspection Service monitored a cluster of E.coli-related illnesses. The investigation led to the catering company, GLASS ONION CATERING of *Richmond, CALIFORNIA*. The company supplies foods to TRADER JOE'S SUPER FRESH GOODS and DELISH. The recall was precautionary. 181,620 pounds of salads and sandwich wraps were recalled. See www.fsis.usda.gov.

(Sources: October 10, 2013, THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL, "*Salmonella shows resistance to antibiotics*", LOS ANGELES; October 10, 2013 MAIL TRIBUNE, "*USDA threatens to close poultry plants linked to Salmonella*" by David Pierson Livingston; October 10, 2013, DAILY TIDINGS, "*Salmonella shows resistance to antibiotics*"; November 12, 2013, MAIL TRIBUNE; October 10, 2013 "*Trader Joe's recalls salads for E. coli risk*" by Ryan Pfeil)

Pop Quiz

Name five local birds and say which are migratory.

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